THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Suggestions mainly relate to enlarging the scope of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective for protecting the interest of consumers;

(b) and (c) The Suggestions have already been examined by a Working Group on the Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which was constituted under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council. The Working Group has since submitted its report.

Representation of West Godavari Tobacco Farmers on Tobacco Board

760. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a demand for representation for West Godavari tobacco farmers on the recently constituted Tobacco Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tobacco farmers from West Godavari and other areas have never got representation on the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether Government propose to consider forming an exclusive tobacco growers advisory body; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the grievance of non-representation of tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Tobacco Board Act provides for appoint of upto 6 members on the Board to represent tobacco growers. Such tobacco growers' representatives have been appointed on the Board.

Supply of Commodities under Subsidised Rates

761. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some blocks in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra under the Prime Minister's Scheme in backward/tribal areas for providing commodities at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks identified and number of items provided at subsidised rates so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the supply of levy sugar and other items to these States under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has identified 97,122 and 114 Blocks in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra respectively to be covered under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in consultation with the State Government. Central Government allocates rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices (CIP) which are Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the CIP for normal PDS areas, to States/UTs for distribution in the RPDS areas.

(c) Levy sugar allocations are generally made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita per month for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. Monthly allocation of other PDS items like rice, wheat and imported edible oil to State/UTs are made after taking into account the availability in the Central Pool, demands received from States/UTs, inter-se requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. In view of the comfortable stock position of foodgrains, reasonable requests for additional allocations of foodgrains have been allowed. Due to constraints of levy sugar